

Humane society reopens after illnesses

MATTHEW BERRY
Chief Reporter | @TheMatthewBerry

The Nodaway County Humane Society is expected to open Tuesday, Feb. 6, after being closed for the past two weeks due to disease outbreak in the shelter.

The decision was made by the shelter's board of directors Jan. 19, shelter director Wendy Combs explained.

"We had a few animals that were adopted out that came down with some sickness, so the board and the staff decided it would be a good time to just close down for a couple weeks; just do a lot of deep cleaning, and get everything where it needs to be," Combs said.

The decision to close was made with the help of veterinarian Dana Kent of the Nodaway Veterinary Clinic.

"They were in need of deep cleaning for the illness they had," Kent said. "The shutdown and quarantine eliminates any foot traffic and new diseases coming in."

The process of deep cleaning for Combs and her staff consisted of taking everything out to make sure every room was clean.

"The staff is taking different parts of the shelter each day, and stripping (the part of the shelter) out," Combs said.

SEE HUMANE SOCIETY | A5

Greitens looks to slash higher education funding

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Chief Reporter | @SammieCollison

Gov. Eric Greitens recommended a \$68.1 million, or 10 percent, cut to higher education for the Missouri 2019 fiscal year.

Both the administration and student body representatives have opposed this cut. University President John Jasinski traveled to Jefferson City Tuesday to testify to the Missouri House of Representatives Education Appropriations Committee, and illustrate what higher education funding is investing in.

In a newsletter sent to faculty by Jasinski Friday, he described not only Northwest's notable accessibility, affordability, retention, completion and job placement results, but also its positive impact on Missouri's economy.

"Northwest generates \$617.5 million in regional economic impact while driving down debt and saving \$66.5 million, via cost containment measures and efficient practices during the last four years," Jasinski said. "We are doing our part, in alignment with our institutional strategic plan. My message in Tuesday's testimony will be straightforward: We bring it. Time to invest."

Not only is Northwest facing the broad 10 percent cut, it will receive another 2 percent cut from "performance-based funding" for not meeting one of the state's six performance measures.

"Northwest's approach to this news is to keep a positive focus on our mission, control what we can control, selectively let go of the past, optimize all we do currently and invest in the future ("3-Box Solution," Vijay Govindarajan)," Jasinski said in the newsletter. "We are involving key stakeholders, developing innovative partnerships, creating profession-based learning experiences and benchmarking with outside industry to help our students be successful."

In the Jan. 3 all-faculty meeting, Jasinski explained the university's strategy since 1990—when approximately 70 percent of the university's funding came from the state—to now, when less than 30 percent of the university's funding comes from the state. Although the



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN
The Nodaway County Humane Society prepares for reopening after being quarantined to prevent the spread of diseases following an outbreak in early January.

Money brought in by Kawasaki equipment plan

\$25.5M EQUIPMENT PROJECT

\$18M FOR NEW EQUIPMENT

30 NEW JOBS CREATED

Source: Greg McDanel

TAYLOR GONNEMAN | NW MISSOURIAN

City of Maryville finalizes Kawasaki equipment plan

KATIE STEVENSON
News Editor | @KatieSStevenson

The city of Maryville and Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corporation USA plant are working together to put in place a \$25.5 million equipment project.

Kawasaki has been in Maryville for over 25 years, and is the largest source of employment in Maryville. Kawasaki's Chief Strategic Officer Steve Bratt said the equipment plan will greatly benefit the plant and allow it to do more.

"It is a chapter 100 bond for equipment to expand our capacity here at the factory and the benefit comes from reducing the tax liability that we would have which then allows us to invest even more into it," Bratt said.

City Manager Greg McDanel said this will be the second time the city has established an equipment project, the first being in 2015. The \$25.5 million plan will be broken down into two categories which would allow companies to buy new equipment and replace older equipment.

Maryville community.

"Along with the chapter 100 process, there are 30 additional jobs that will be created," McDanel said. "It will increase plant efficiency and production, and then it will also continue to show Kawasaki that we have created a corporate-friendly environment for them to continue to invest and grow here in Maryville."

Bratt said Kawasaki would begin putting the plan in effect as soon as it passes.

"I hope we get accepted, and that we get approved the chapter 100 bonds..." Bratt said. "We'll order the equipment. As soon as it passes, we will start buying it, and placing it into our factory."

McDanel said if the 100 bonds pass the plan could greatly help Maryville, and get more money invested locally from Kawasaki, growing the Maryville economy. If everything goes as planned, and the council approves, the plan will go into effect Feb. 12.

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Designated driver incentive fills local bars

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Chief Reporter | @SammieCollison

Reid Osborn, a frequenter of Maryville bars, started the Blue Cup Initiative allowing designated drivers into bars with no cover charge, and better identify designated drivers visually Jan. 22 after a tweet pitching the idea went viral.

The idea for the initiative was born out of a group of friends, including Osborn, Osborn's girlfriend sophomore Emily Madden and several other friends, celebrating a birthday at a Maryville bar, and the designated drivers were frustrated about having to pay the fee to get in. And when they wanted water or a soda, they were ignored by the bartender because they had X's on their hands.

"So it started when I was just ranting, and my girlfriend was bouncing ideas off of me, and we said, 'well, why wouldn't it just be easier for someone to have a different colored cup?'" Osborn said. "I knew one of the bouncers there, and asked him about it, and he thought it would be a really good idea because they didn't know who was DDing. If someone was being rowdy, they didn't know who to send them home with."

That night around 1:30 a.m., Osborn posted the first thread on Twitter about the problem and what should be done about it.

"Dear Maryville bars, I have a change you need to make. Tonight I was the DD for a group of people. At the door, I had to pay to gain entrance even though I have zero intention of drinking. I wanted a water but was ignored by the bartender because of the X's on my hands," Osborn posted Jan. 14, from his Twitter, @Reid_ItAnd_Weep.

Osborn said not only would waving cover charges for designated drivers not cost the bars anything, it would be in the bar's best interests.

"I firmly believe that a DD should never have to pay," Osborn tweeted. "They are doing you, the bar owner, a favor by getting the people you allow to become intoxicated at your establishment home safely. I should also be able to get water, pop, or whatever without being ignored.. So when I walk in and tell you that I am being the DD for the night, hand me a different colored cup (one of your bartenders know is only for DD's), mark my hands however you see fit and don't charge me for doing you the courtesy of keeping your patrons safe. It's time for a change."

The tweets went locally viral within 24 hours, and as of publication, the initial tweet has more than 1,000 likes and more than 100 retweets.



MADI NOLTE | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Maryville bars, beginning with The Palms as the first to adopt, are being presented with the 'Blue Cup Initiative' which would allow for designated drivers to enter with no cover charge as well as receiving free soda throughout the night in an effort to encourage the use of designated drivers.

"When I first tweeted it out, I didn't expect it to go viral," Osborn said. "Once I saw the connection that it had with people, and saw that it was something we needed and not just a thought that I had, I tried to write it up like I would for a non-profit, what would my base be, so I wrote up some base rules and sent those to some of my friends."

Once I saw the response from them, I thought it was something I could actually push for. It's only been a few weeks that this has gone from a thought to an actual initiative that people were behind and could happen."

The following Saturday, Osborn wrote the first draft of the rules for the Blue Cup Initiative, which he sent to Erik Schreiber, owner of The Palms, and tweeted Monday, Jan. 22.

"Well everyone, it's happening. After seeing your reactions to my tweet about a designated driver program in Maryville, I realized

that this was something we needed. I'm working with Mayor Jason McDowell on getting the 'Blue Cup Initiative' up and going," Osborn tweeted.

If a bar chooses to adopt the initiative, designated drivers would not have to pay the cover charge and would receive a blue cup for free soda indicating that they are a designated driver. If patrons abuse the system, and are caught drinking alcohol, they will be removed from the bar, and they will have to pay the cover charge.

The initiative has not yet been adopted in any Maryville bars. Osborn has been in contact with bar owners, Mayor Jason McDowell, the Save MO Lives campaign and is seeking a potential sponsorship with Solo Cup.

"So far, all the feedback I've gotten has been positive and people want to get behind it; people want to help out," Osborn said.

"I'm hoping that within a month to six weeks, it could be in

the bars, depending on when bars choose to adopt it," Osborn said. "My goal is the end of February. From what Erik from The Palms said, that could be a great place to start, and then adapt it to other bars."

Junior Cassandra Trader retweeted Osborn's original tweet and said she has been for the initiative from day one and cannot see how its impact could be anything but positive.

"Living in a college town, tragedy is, unfortunately, going to strike every once in a while, whether it be drunk driving or someone overdosing," Trader said. "I've always thought that Maryville needed some kind of Uber system, but never taken it upon myself to make it happen. Reid is doing something that any smart college student knows that Maryville needs. The Blue Cup Initiative is something that will hopefully help this town become less of a victim to those tragedies happening."

If college students in other cities would like to mimic the Blue Cup Initiative, Osborn said he recommends contacting a police officer, city councilman or business owner and get someone with social influence behind it. If people believe in a movement, he said, it will catch on.

"What I have found out of this whole process is that making a change or making a difference isn't really as hard as you think," Osborn said. "If you have a good idea that you know people are going to get behind, reaching out to public figures like city councilmen, mayors and establishment owners can really quickly make that difference. It really has not been too difficult, other than waiting for people to respond to emails. The hardest part was lining it all up, thinking it all through to anticipate problems and figure out how it should be handled."

Under new Missouri bill 17-year-olds will be tried as juveniles

KATIE STEVENSON
News Editor | @KatieSStevenson

Missouri lawmakers have renewed a statewide proposal, which would raise the age at which young offenders can be tried in Missouri's adult court system to 18.

According to the website Raise the Age Missouri, Missouri is one of only five states that still automatically treat 17-year-olds as adults in the criminal justice system, no matter how minor the offense.

When a 17-year-old is arrested, his or her parents have no rights to be notified or to participate in the case. This proposal would not affect the law already in place, which allows courts to have juveniles stand trial as adults for extreme or repeated offenses.

Maryville Public Safety Director Keith Wood said the main thing the proposal would change if passed is the routing system for criminals.

"It would only have an effect on the routing of 17-year-olds, where you would send them," Wood said. "And so in other words, if you had arrested a 17-year-old, you would send them through the juvenile system, as opposed to sending them through the adult system like we currently do."

Nodaway County Prosecuting Attorney Robert Rice said he believes increasing the age to 18 may help to curb crime committed by



MORGAN JONES | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

A bill has been proposed to Missouri lawmakers that would raise the age of individuals being tried with specific crimes as juveniles from 17 to 18.

17-year-olds.

"It could (lower crime rate) because, right now, there are cases where we have tried 17-year-olds as adults for various crimes, including assault or stealing or drugs, so there could be an impact in the local community based upon increasing the age to 18 before you can file in adult court," Rice said.

According to the Center for Disease Control, 17-year-olds in the juvenile system have been shown to reduce reoffending by 34 percent. Rice said he hopes once passed, the proposal will help rehabilitate, and prevent young people from committing crimes again.

"In the end, what we hope to do is to be able to catch young persons who are making bad or dan-

gerous or destructive or harmful choices in enough time to change their behavior, so they can be law-abiding citizens," Rice said. "If we don't do that, then records will show that they will just continue to offend, and we will see them in adult court anyway; then we've got a downhill spiral for their lives. Because they will reoffend, go to jail, do some treatment and then most likely re-offend after that."

According to Raise the Age Missouri, 17-year-olds incarcerated in adult jails are 36 times more likely to commit suicide than those in juvenile detention.

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Changes to disaster plan brewing

Nodaway county works to revise a hazard plan for Maryville and surrounding communities

ABBEY HUGO

Chief Reporter I @TheMissourian

The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments (RCOG) has begun revising the Nodaway County Hazard Mitigation Plan, so it may qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation funds.

To receive grants that will assist in times of emergency, FEMA requires the plan to be reviewed annually, then updated and re-approved every five years. RCOG, led by Executive Director Todd Spencer and Program Assistant Steve Houts, writes the plan.

"To minimize the effects of natural hazards, not only to property but to human life, is the main goal," Houts said. "The secondary goal is to be able to qualify for those funds that FEMA makes available to those who participate in the plan."

Mitigation is sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from hazard events, according to a slideshow presented at the county's first planning meeting.

The Nodaway County Hazard Mitigation Plan outlines a strategy to aid the county in times of emergency.

The committee works to identify hazards, assess the community's vulnerability and create a plan to confront these threats.

"Putting together thoughts and ideas together shows where your vulnerabilities are, and lets you proactively address them," Spencer said.

The plan accounts for issues related to flooding, fires, earthquakes, drought, tornadoes, thunderstorms and winter weather.

There have been nine instances of disaster declarations in Nod-



MORGAN JONES | NW MISSOURIAN

The Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments is working on revising the Nodaway County Hazard Mitigation Plan with the hopes that it will qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation funds to assist in times of emergency. Pictured above, local officials trained in emergency response works alongside Northwest students in the Missouri Hope disaster simulation in October 2017.

away County since 2007. Average annual damages caused by natural hazards amounts to \$343,000.

Maryville has received more than \$1 million in FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants, demonstrating the immense impact of feder-

al funding. These funds are used for projects, such as the Maryville R-II High School Community Safe Room of 2015 and the acquisition of private property in 1994.

Updating the plan is important, not only to qualify for funding, but

also that Nodaway County may simply be as well-equipped for future emergencies as possible. This update is to the plan established in 2014.

"This (updating the plan) is important for contiguity and sta-

bility. Being able to look in the past and toward the future helps to ensure your community gets what it needs in the future," Spencer explained.

The county's circumstances are constantly changing, in terms of climate and community. Changes in storms, regulations, socioeconomics, demographics, vulnerabilities and population must all be addressed and updated within the plan.

"Think of it as a living document that is constantly being changed as a guide to keep the community safer," Houts said.

The planning team consists of jurisdictions like emergency responders, clerks, school superintendents, public works directors and elected officials from across the county along with stakeholders, such as business partners and local to federal agencies.

"Ideas come from all over, all walks of life," Spencer said. "When there's more input, there's more opportunity for good ideas." According to the presentation at the county's first meeting, each participating jurisdiction must designate a representative to the committee, provide data from their community and encourage locals to comment on the plan. Outreach is an essential part of mitigation planning.

"It (the mitigation plan) affects the safety of the whole community," Houts said. "We want to get people of the community involved because they know what goes on, more so than we do."

Because diverse input is so vital, all concerned citizens are encouraged to participate in the planning process, either by conversing with public officials or attending a meeting themselves. The next meetings are scheduled for April 25 and May 23.

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OUR VIEW:

A crime is a crime no matter the age

Each of us hold a great amount of responsibility to make even the smallest decisions our own. With that power comes the potential to devastate many lives.

In recent news, a school shooting in Kentucky left two students killed and 18 injured. A 15-year-old held the gun. A 15-year-old pulled the trigger. A 15-year-old was charged with two counts of murder and 12 counts of first degree assault. He will be charged as an adult for his actions.

This has not only affected the now grieving families of the injured and the dead; this will also affect this young man for the rest of his natural born life.

In 41 of the 50 states, a 17-year-old who commits a crime will be put through the juvenile justice system. However, in nine of them, a 17-year-old would be

tried as an adult, and put through adult jail and/or prison system.

Missouri is one of those 41 states, but there are statutes in place that delineate from the rules if someone under the age of 17 commits a serious crime. The defined offenses are first and second degree murder, first degree assault, first degree robbery, distribution of drugs, forcible rape and forcible sodomy.

These crimes are atrocious acts of what a human being is capable of doing, and should be dealt with in a swift and appropriate manner. In the case of 17-year-olds, this should be no different. A crime is a crime, regardless of how old you are. Age is just a number. Law is made for a specific reason.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, crime rates for juveniles between 2006 and 2012

dropped: 46% for American Indian youth; 37% for Asian youth; 38% for white youth, and 34% for black youth.

This decrease in number shouldn't beget sighs of relief. It should symbolize a step in the right direction. Either law enforcement is finally cracking down, or people are finally getting straight, regardless - good things are coming from our officers in blue.

According to Pew Research Center surveys, 57% of registered voters said crime in the U.S. has gotten worse since 2008, even though it has declined by double percentages during that span.

This isn't necessarily a bad thing. Americans have their head in the right place, but ought to push a little harder for the shining torch of the American Dream to shine on through. The more we

proactively think and communicate to each other about the ways crime could be handled better, the faster those thoughts will come to fruition.

In total, according to gunviolencearchive.org, there were 346 mass shootings in 2017 alone. This number shakes me to my core. What is even more gut-wrenching is the 186 school shootings that have taken place since the devastating Sandy Hook shooting in 2012. These statistics don't bode well for anyone, but they do offer us some advice.

When a society is at war with itself, it needs to construct safety measures in order to preserve the integrity its forefathers spent so much time constructing and perfecting. If this means furthering the reach of the police to for the betterment of society, then so be it.

College students should limit their partying

SARAH VON SEGGERN
Opinion Columnist
@TheMissourian



As college students, we all know the various stereotypes surrounding our lives, like always eating unhealthy, wearing sweatpants everyday and the stereotype most look forward to is the freedom to party all night anywhere there are drinks, games and upbeat music.

Like most stereotypes, they have some truth to them with the occasional outliers who don't fit the status quo. While it may seem like the perfect college life, what about those who don't like to party? Is it always the case of when in Rome, do as the Romans do?

No, it isn't, and honestly, it shouldn't be. While it may be hard to imagine, there are many people who don't find it entertaining to go out and get drunk while dancing to blaring music.

There are always going to be people who will conform to a different set of ideals. People shouldn't have to feel ashamed for not loving the party scene, especially if it's just not something they're into.

Even though parties are supposed to be part of the college experience and are supposedly the only way for people to get all the great, movie-like stories, there are other ways to have fun even in a small community.

When looking for something to spice up your regular evenings though, people can always go bowling at Bearcat Lanes, watch a movie at the Hangar Cinema or even goof around Walmart at 2 a.m.

If a student finds themselves stuck in a room, but does not have a car, there is always the commons area designated in or around where they live. With access to games like billiards and ping-pong, students can easily enjoy time away from studying and school work.

If people are looking to stay indoors on a Saturday night, then grabbing a deck of cards and playing some blackjack or BS could create just as many memories as going out.

Call me childish, but I personally love playing "Uno" with my roommates. The cards always go flying in a multitude of colors, especially when it comes down to the remaining two players.

If card games don't appeal to you, then try a simple board game instead. There are many classics to choose from like "Life," "Monopoly" and "Clue." Honestly, any game people can play with close friends is better than spending the night alone, or waking up in the morning with a hangover and a sense of weariness.

Despite popular belief, there is more to do in college than learn and party. Some people just don't have fun watching drunk people causing a commotion.

If you are curious about going to a party though, be safe, and get a group of people you trust together. There is no harm in figuring out what you like and don't like when choosing how to spend your evenings.



COLIN VAUGHAN | NW MISSOURIAN

'Wonder Woman' deserves recognition

JAMES CHRISTENSEN
Opinion Columnist
@TheMissourian

It is finally award season, which means our favorite films are up for various awards like best film, or leading actor. Surprisingly, there is one film that is not up for any awards, and that is Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman."

"Wonder Woman" was a huge box office success during the 2017 film year, breaking box office records and making the most money out of any DC film.

This film was groundbreaking, shattered the glass ceiling and gave viewers the first solo female superhero film. This has never been done before, but it received

no nominations for the records that were set.

"Wonder Woman" was by far the best superhero movie I have gotten to see in a long time, and while I have not yet seen "Justice League," I know the role of Wonder Woman will be perfectly portrayed.

Gal Gadot brought the character of Diana to life and made her first silver screen appearance one for the history books. Gadot even did the scenes for Wonder Woman while she was five months pregnant. If that is not commitment, I do not know what is.

When I looked at the nominations for the Oscars, some of them made sense like "Guardians of Galaxy Vol. 2" is nominated for best visual effects, and "Star Wars Episode 8: The Last Jedi" is up for four different Oscar categories.

"Wonder Woman" is a groundbreaking example of cinematic brilliance and is one of the few original films that has come out in recent years that is not a remake or a reboot of a film from 20 years ago.

This was the one film I was the most excited for this past summer, and it was a countdown until I got to go and see it with my friends.

I love a decent amount of the movies that have been nominated for the Oscars, and I am excited that they are up for that honor, but some of the movies I had never heard of. Movies like "Lady Bird" were a complete mystery to me until I searched it on Google. While they deserve to be in their own right, the fact that "Wonder Woman" is not in the running for any award is weird.

While I am not entirely sure

how the films are chosen, I feel like it should be more like the People's Choice Awards where it is decided by the public. There are so many good films out there that deserve the opportunity to be recognized for their outstanding achievements.

This argument mainly started because "Wonder Woman" did not receive any nominations, but thinking about all of the films that I have seen in the last year that do not ever get the recognition they deserve.

This is why I love the People's Choice Awards: I get a direct say in what films are up for the award and it also does not mean that my favorite movies are not getting ignored. I love movies, but sometimes these award shows irritate me when my favorite movies do not win any awards.

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Maryville officials confirm plan for joint 911 center

CAMERON MONTEMAYOR

Missourian Reporter I @CameronNWMSU

For the residents of Nodaway County, a long-awaited joint 911-dispatch center is finally on the horizon.

Officials from Nodaway County and Maryville have confirmed a plan is in place to advance on a consolidated emergency response center, something that had eluded the area for decades.

A joint 911 center would allow dispersed county and city dispatch services, like the ambulance district, fire department, Maryville and University Police and sheriff's office, to form a joint communication center.

"Everybody's in agreement now that this needs to move forward," Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong said.

A 38-year veteran in law enforcement, Strong has been a proponent for a joint 911 center since he ran for the position in 2013.

Under the current structure, the Sheriff's Department coordinates with the ambulance district, while the public safety dispatch operates Maryville's Fire Department and Police Station.

This can lead to delays in response times, depending on the location of the call.

"If someone calls 911 outside city limits in Nodaway County, it goes to their dispatch, who then contacts sheriff's office, fire, EMS," City Manager Greg McDanel said. "Sometimes, these calls are transferred between the two. In emergen-

cy response, every second counts."

When finished, a joint 911-dispatch center will provide a quicker and more efficient customer service system to residents in Nodaway County.

McDanel is hopeful construction will begin later this year, and the center will be located in the new public safety building on First and Vine.

The public safety building already plans to house Maryville's Fire Department and law enforcement.

However, a finalized location for the joint 911 center cannot be confirmed until a study is filed and approved by hired consultants.

A costly investment, Nodaway County Commissioners and Maryville have each committed \$10,000 toward the study due Feb. 14.

In addition to determining its location, the studies will analyze proper law requirements and consolidation feasibility.

McDanel said the return date for the study should coincide with the final design for the Maryville Public Safety building.

For Nodaway County Commissioner Bob Stiens, he said he was very happy to have everyone in agreement and working in a combined effort.

Attempts at creating a consolidated public safety response center had gone on for nearly 20 years before last week's agreement.

"...Ultimately, they were unsuccessful due to financial challenges, staffing issues and the po-



MORGAN JONES | NW MISSOURIAN
After almost two decades of attempts at bringing a joint 911-dispatch center for Nodaway County, residents can finally look forward to a consolidated emergency response center that will provide quicker response times and cut costs.

litical environments during those times," McDanel said.

It was an obstacle that Nodaway County dealt with, and one that other counties in Missouri face.

"The personalities are now in place that we all get along together; they haven't in the past," Strong said.

County Commissioner Chris Burns echoed Strong and McDanel's statements, saying the timing of the project was due to the

county and city now being on the same page.

"I've been around long enough to know if you don't work together as a group, you're gonna fail," Strong said.

McDanel said with a strategy in place between Maryville and Nodaway County officials, the focus can now be on providing a faster emergency response service to its citizens.

University Police Chief Clar-

ence Green said the department is also looking forward to the next few months of engaging with the project.

In addition to immediate changes, like faster response times for Nodaway County residents, Maryville and Nodaway county officials expect to see long-term benefits from having a joint 911 center.

Decreases in staff training, purchases of duplicate equipment and maintenance will all help cut costs.

HUMANE SOCIETY

CONTINUED FROM A5

"(They) take all of the animals out of (the part being cleaned) and deep clean it using a lot of bleach, and so forth."

While Combs said it is hard to know the exact cause of the outbreak, she believes a possibility is the foot traffic that the shelter sees.

"You never know what can be brought in with so many people coming in and out," Combs said.

As explained by Kent, the bottoms of peoples' shoes serve as a vehicle for parasites and other disease.

"Shoes serve as a fomite,

which is an innate object to spread disease," Kent said. "If you step in a pile of mud and walk about your house, you spread mud throughout your house; it's the same concept for microscopic diseases."

To prevent disease spread, Combs has dip pans to wash peoples' shoes when they come in.

"Shoes are dipped when they come in and out using our dip pans," Combs said.

Despite closure, Combs said the public has nothing to be concerned about.

"Animals can get sick anywhere, just like you and I," Combs said. "Us closing wasn't a bad thing; it's a good thing, so we can

get things under control, everybody treated properly and the shelter cleaned."

Combs said that any animal affected will be retested and cleared before opening.

"Anybody that was sick will be retested and make sure everybody is good to go before we open," Combs said.

Kent is also confident in the shelter being ready to open come

"They (the shelter staff) are doing everything they can to prevent disease spread, and looking out for the welfare of the animals," Kent said.

The shelter plans to reopen Feb. 6 at 1 p.m.

versity, experience and what we would like to see from the state. It was meant to be brief and powerful, and I think it did just that."

Lincoln listed many things she has gained from attending Northwest, but she said her time here has so deeply impacted her that it would be easier and quicker to explain the ways she has not been affected by higher education.

"The opportunity one experiences from going to college will change you indefinitely. I have learned independence, true grit, patience, how to balance a budget, what 4 a.m. looks like and much, much more in my time here," Lincoln said. "I have perfected communication skills, refined leadership abilities, experimented with my time and challenged everything that has come before me."

EDUCATION

CONTINUED FROM A5

"Each year, public universities train and shape the leaders of the workforce of our state's future. It's time to invest in them."

The letter was signed by Northwest Student Body President Katie Brown and Student Body Vice President Alyssa Lincoln. The idea for the letter was born in a group chat composed of student body presidents and vice presidents from various universities in Missouri, Lincoln said. When discussing the issue of FY19, the group's thoughts were compiled into a collaborative Google Document which eventually became the letter.

"There were a couple students who spearheaded the writing

of the statement, but everyone played a role," Lincoln said. "We were all involved in either editing, perfecting, formatting or constructing the statement though. Toward the end of the process, we all had to agree on the content of the statement though."

Lincoln and Brown also received approval from their adviser, Kori Hoffmann, and Jasinski before signing the statement.

"I think the statement is an amazing foot-in-the-door," Lincoln said. "Breaking down the nitty gritty of what we as students experience wasn't necessary, but it was important for us to recognize the cuts that will continue to affect our universities. I believe this joint statement is a great conversation starter into what we, as students of Northwest Missouri State Uni-

versity, experience and what we would like to see from the state. It was meant to be brief and powerful, and I think it did just that."

Lincoln listed many things she has gained from attending Northwest, but she said her time here has so deeply impacted her that it would be easier and quicker to explain the ways she has not been affected by higher education.

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Student Senate appropriations Jan. 30

Student Senate appropriated \$1,078 to Minority Men's Organization: Tribute to the Ladies annual event.

Blotters between Jan. 13-30

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Jan. 13

There were 13 closed investigations for liquor law violation at Dietrich Hall.

There were two closed investigations for liquor law violation at Dietrich Hall.

Jan. 18

A summons was issued to Erika Finkelstein, 18, for possession of marijuana at College Park Drive.

Jan. 18

There were two closed investigations for liquor law violation at Millikan Hall.

Jan. 20

There was a closed investigation for liquor law violation at Millikan Hall.

There was a closed investigation for liquor law violation at Hudson Hall.

Jan. 21

There was a closed investigation for liquor law violation at Fourth Street.

Jan. 25

There is an open investigation for stealing at an unknown location.

Jan. 28

There was a closed investigation for liquor law violation at Millikan Hall.

Maryville Public Safety

Jan. 20

There is an ongoing investigation for a stolen vehicle at the 500 block of east First Street.

Jan. 21

There is an ongoing investigation for a stolen vehicle at the 500 block of North Country Club Road.

There is an ongoing investigation for a stolen vehicle at the intersection of First and Davis Street.

Jan. 28

A summons was issued to Shane Stark, 20, for minor in possession at the 300 block of North Market Street.

A summons was issued to Corey Graham, 19, for not having a valid driver's license and failure to maintain right half of the roadway.

Jan. 29

There is an ongoing investigation for fraud at the 1300 block of South Main Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny at the 1600 block of South Main Street.

Jan. 30

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny at the 1400 block of North Country Club Road.

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny at the 1400 block of North Country Club Road.



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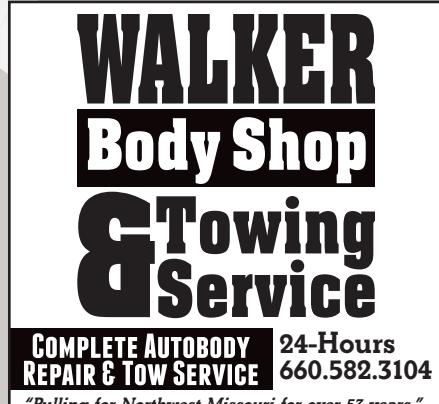
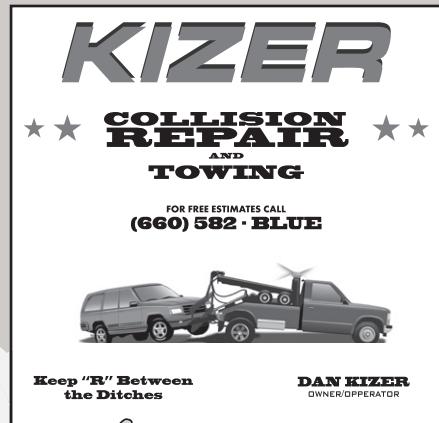
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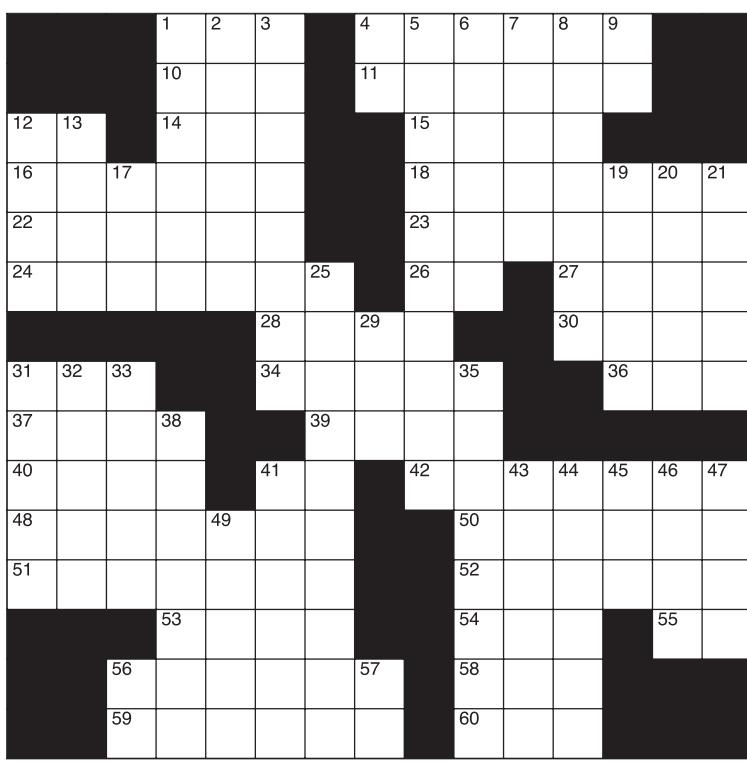
COLIN VAUGHN | NW MISSOURIAN

CROSSWORD

By MetroCreative

CLUES ACROSS

- Plural of be
- Dress
- Nothing
- Relating to apes
- They protect and serve
- Swindle
- Show's partner
- Lift
- Raise up
- Do something to an excessive degree
- Occupies
- Power-driven aircraft
- Indicates position
- Matchstick games
- This and __
- No longer here
- Health insurance
- Spore-producing receptacle on fern frond
- Monetary unit
- Sweet potatoes
- Tropical Asian plant
- Guilty or not guilty
- Carbon dioxide
- Able to arouse intense feeling
- Earl's jurisdiction
- Omitted
- Heartbeat
- Albania capital
- Fashion accessory
- Interaction value analysis
- Symbol of exclusive ownership
- More promising
- __ student, learns healing
- Nonresident doctor
- Midway between east and southeast

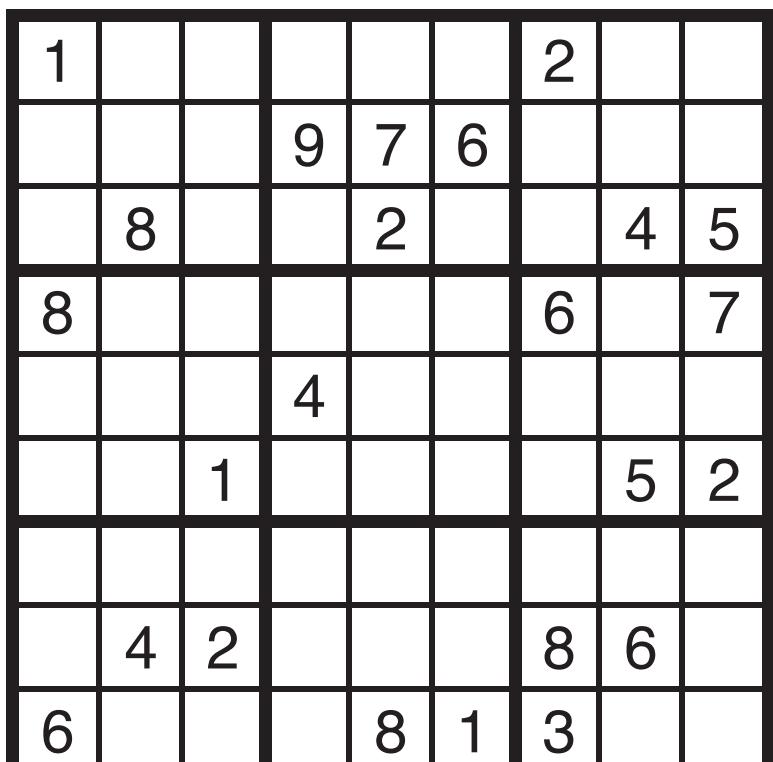


CLUES DOWN

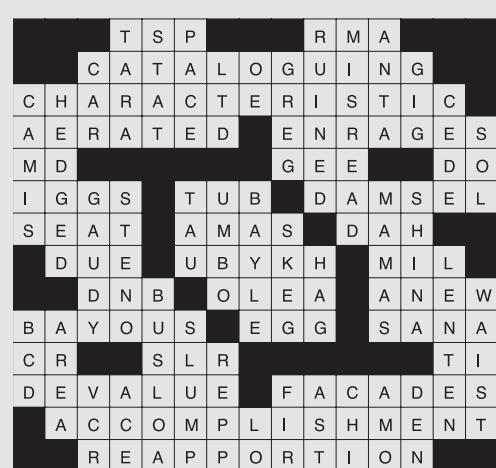
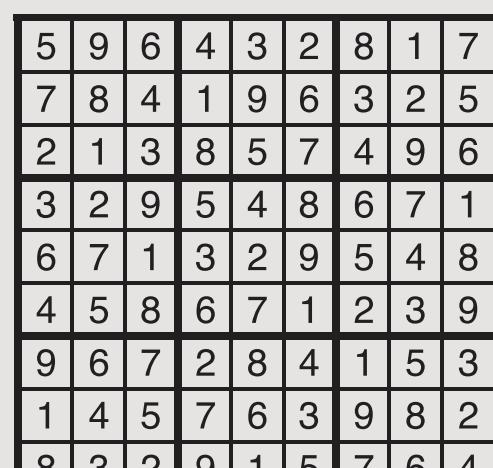
- Enrages
- Capital of Saudi Arabia
- Uses in an unfair way
- Cesium
- Written works
- Breakfast item
- Found in showers
- A way of fractioning
- Unit of measurement
- Sailboat
- Indian goddess
- For each
- Farewell
- Ethnic group of Sierra Leone
- German industrial city
- Measures intensity of light
- Small, faint constellation
- Promotes enthusiastically
- Malaysian inhabitant
- Ancient units of measurement
- An unspecified period
- Frame house with up to three stories
- Lassie is one
- Martinis have them
- Rant
- Famed journalist Tarbell
- Opening
- Round Dutch cheese
- Archaic form of do
- Once more
- Registered nurse

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



The Big Game

Bearcats celebrate Super Bowl 52 in diverse ways

MICHAEL CRIPE
A&E Editor | @MikeCripe

It is the time of year again where everyone decides between one of two ways to celebrate the Super Bowl: partying or actually watching the game.

Based solely on viewer numbers, the Super Bowl is the biggest sporting event in America. Every year the game comes around, it is impossible to ignore. It is like someone is screaming and shooting off fireworks 10 feet in front of your house.

To many, it is more than just another sporting event. The Super Bowl is a nationwide cultural celebration of everything pop culture that only has the shell of a football game.

Nick Gutzmer, a senior biomedical science major, says enjoying the game every year with friends is a big part of the celebration. For him, everything about this time of year is worth excitement.

"I usually get everyone I can together, whether they are fans of my favorite team or not, and just enjoy watching the game," Gutzmer said. "We always watch the commercials and halftime performance, which is something I rarely do for a regular game."

This year, he'll be taking a step back from gathering everyone he knows for a party, and instead will be only watching game 52 with just his roommates and a couple of close friends. His favorite team is the Green Bay Packers, and though they didn't make it this year, Gutzmer says he will always watch the game no matter what.

Watching the Packers make their way to earning national recognition has been a family tradition since Gutzmer was young, and he has fond memories of watching games with his dad.

"If the Packers are in the Super Bowl, then I am focusing all of

my attention on the game because I have been a life-long fan, and I can't wait until the day I get to see them win another one," Gutzmer said. "I still remember watching their last one in 2011 with my dad. It was an awesome moment."

Gutzmer's roommate, Dimitric Edwards, a senior education major, said the NFL is not just a sporting event, it is a lifestyle. He does whatever it takes to make sure he is always informed, and keeping up with the latest news in the sports world.

"Unless my team, the Colts, is in the Super Bowl, I don't wear any of my NFL gear," Edwards said. "I also don't do any homework or school related thing as I am just focused on the game. For a regular season game, I try to follow Twitter, so I can get some insight on the game that I wouldn't notice on my own. For the Super Bowl, I put that stuff away and just sit and enjoy what's going on without trying to dive deeper in the X's and O's."

Additionally, he says everything about the game makes it one of his favorite times of the year. From the friends and family to the halftime shows, Edwards lives for the game week atmosphere. Edwards even has one tradition where if the Colts are playing, he has to make sure he is wearing the quarterback's jersey while watching with his brother. For both Edwards and Gutzmer, family has been an important aspect to some of their most important moments in football.

"Before YouTube got big, I remember not even leaving for the commercials because I didn't want to miss out," Edwards said. "Now, I know that they'll be on YouTube immediately following the game, so it has kind of lost its luster. I still try to watch them all live though. The halftime show has not been something that I've cared about since I got into football. I've

always used it as the time to grab more snacks and stuff."

Advertisements are something that, on a regular day, are something most have trained themselves to ignore subconsciously. They are, at best, a break in between TV shows. Yet, somehow on Super Bowl Sunday, they aren't just part of the show, they are the reason millions make sure to tune in for every second.

According to a 2016 poll from the Huffington Post, 35 percent of viewers said the best part of the Super Bowl is the game itself. On the other hand, 26 percent preferred the commercials and 25 percent said they weren't going to watch the game at all. This is a huge chunk of viewership sticking around to watch something that is, for the most part, completely unrelated to football.

Shelby Simpson, public relations major and co-president of Adink, says advertising is a huge part of the economy for a reason. The Super Bowl is the biggest day of the year for advertisers, and some have even started putting out teasers for their commercials before the gameday. Simpson says having a captive audience the size of the nation is a great chance for advertisers to play around and convey a message, especially when so many people tune in just for the ads.

"People will tune in just for the commercials, some don't even care about the game," Simpson said. "It has made the game have another aspect. The commercials are almost their own game."

Super Bowl 52 is approaching fast, and Bearcats are sure to be celebrating in one way or another. Today, there are more options than ever when it comes to how football fans can enjoy the big event. Whether it be with commercials, the halftime show or just watching the game, there is no doubt everyone will be on the edge of their seats.



MADI NOLTE | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Millions of football fanatics across the country will tune in to watch Super Bowl LII, the biggest sporting event in America, this Sunday.



MADI NOLTE | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION
According to a 2017 survey from Marketwatch.com, 27 percent of Americans said they attended a Super Bowl party.

The Gravity manages to find eager listeners

MEKA WRIGHT
Chief Reporter | @itstheredhair

It's Thursday afternoon, and newspapers and camera ops are flung in every face, students are busily passing. The music is throb-bing through the Student Union. Students swarm with vibrant excitement as urban favorites are played, breaking out in dance. It's not a flash mob, but instead it's the culture the popular KZLX radio show, "The Gravity," is bringing to the forefront with its modern, urban and slightly controversial tactics.

Tuesday nights, "The Gravity" co-hosts Kyriecce DeVine and Janae Wells have created a unique and inclusive rebranding of the specialty show that has rose into a prominent voice of its targeted students, and they do it for one reason: #fortheclure. Though, the drive for the culture doesn't stop at the music, DeVine and Wells combine the sought-after musical taste with pop culture interactive talks focused on R&B and hip-hop.

"We really wanted to give the African-American community a voice on the Northwest campus," DeVine said. "...(in the past) We didn't really talk about pop culture events that are happening, stuff that we were interested in."

The conversation topics of the show have an interactive social media aspect that allows students to not only make suggestions of topics, but readily stay tuned and engaged before, during and after the show.

"Since we've incorporated social media... you can actually see feedback instantly," Wells said. "...I think that's a big thing, you know who's tuned in because of who answers... (and) knows what you're doing when and where."

The topic of the night is asked on social media in hopes of student and community involvement, along with DeVine and Wells opinions regarding the topics.

"We let social media answer, and that creates participation," DeVine said. "I don't think we expected it to be as big as it is... when they (students) are the ones suggesting topics of course they're going to listen."

"The Gravity" has sparked unity within the African-American community on campus. The show's #fortheclure wave has merged several media outlets and even branched off to involve groups of students coming together to listen to the show itself.

"We'll be on Snapchat, and there will be groups of people in a room, doing homework, listening



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

The Gravity co-hosts Janae Wells and Kyriecce DeVine welcome their listeners to yet another week's show as they go live Tuesday at 9 p.m.

to the show," DeVine said. "When you (students) suggest something, you feel apart of it. We make it feel like a family."

While the radio show success has skyrocketed, the host duet battled troublesome feedback regarding the show.

"When the show first became popular, there was negative feedback related to discussing more urban topics," Wells said.

Though, it was difficult to combat the goals of their rebrand-

ing of "The Gravity" with negative feedback from the immediate community, DeVine and Wells didn't let the discouraging fact slow them down.

"We kind of started playing off of it," DeVine said. "On our show, every week, we'd say #keepusontheradio, and that was just us being funny... the point of having a specialty show is to do what you want to do, and express your views."

Pushing through the rough patch in the beginning has lead the

duet to being the most listened to show on the station with a fanbase that exceeds Maryville; ranging from Kansas City, to DeVine's sister, who listens from Costa Rica.

DeVine and Wells have produced success and fostered a legacy that will follow them throughout their lives after their time at Northwest. Building their version of "The Gravity" has become a vessel of achievements not only for themselves, but for the continued unity of our community.

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat wants you keep your eyes on the road

With people driving like there's no tomorrow, I'm just like, "Jesus, take the wheel."

Lately whenever I'm out driving, I feel like I'm also constantly praying that I'll make it to the apartment safe.

It seems everybody driving around Maryville has taken it upon themselves to start "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift" Maryville edition.

The amount of times people have cut me off is innumerable, and the amount of bad drivers is beyond any number.

It's like people are going to miss some big food promotion if they don't get to where they need to be right then and there. When the cops pull you over for driving too fast, I don't think saying, "But I need to get the last Szechuan sauce from McDonald's," will work.

A simple solution to this is to get off your lazy butt and get going. Instead of acting like you're on a speedway, act like your house is on fire instead. I didn't come to Northwest to be a NASCAR driver.

Drivers taking certain precautions never hurt anybody, unless you count the old granny who has caused wrecks by driving slower than slugs in a puddle of molasses.

It's not even like I'm not used to seeing bad drivers either. I have driven my fair share of roads from Kansas City, Missouri, to Columbia, Missouri, but Maryville drivers are just a different kind of layer I can't handle.

Especially during the winter, why would people want to be

more aggressive driving when the roads are literal ice? Is it just me? Surely, I'm not the only one who sees the sudden bursts of speed to get through a stop light, or the sudden swing of a car as they skirt their way in front of me.

If you really wanted to get in front so badly, then you should have just called me. I would have gladly stayed inside for the day.

What do people think they're trying to prove? They must have infinite lives to be driving dangerously on already iced up roads. It makes about as much

sense as two plus two equals five. I will be honestly surprised to see if everybody is still alive in Maryville with the amount of overly-confident drivers.

We might just drive ourselves into a rut if we continue on this dangerous path.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

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Overwatch League is a game changer for future esports

CORIE HERTZOG
A&E Reporter | @CoffeGilmore97

Video games are known for their ability to connect players and form tight knit communities. "Overwatch," however, is in a league of its own with the game and community leveling up to form the Overwatch League.

If the name "Overwatch" does not sound familiar, do not be surprised. The game was released in 2016 by Blizzard Entertainment. Blizzard Entertainment is also the creator of another popular game: "World of Warcraft." "Overwatch" was designed by Jeremy Craig, Michael Elliott and Scott Mercer.

The game divides players into teams of six where they can pick one of more than 20 characters to play. Each character has different abilities and weaknesses which affect how they fight. These characters can be divided into four categories: offense, defense, tank and

support.

"I think, being pretty involved in gaming already, I ended up hearing about it second-hand through other communities," junior human services major Trip Carlson said. "I know Blizzard is a really huge gaming company, but 'Overwatch' was really my first introduction to their company, too. I stayed as far away from 'World of Warcraft' as I could because I knew how addictive it was."

With "Overwatch" becoming so popular in the world it would make sense why some would want it to become part of the esport intramurals on campus.

"I like the Overwatch League just fine but I think it should be part of the esports intramurals," freshman MacKenzie Sunderman.

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'When quality counts!'

Northwest track hits mid-way point in indoor season

JUSTIN QUICK
Chief Reporter | @jquick88



Familiar faces continue to improve for Bearcat track and field halfway through the season.

The Bearcats traveled to Seward, Nebraska, Jan. 26-27 for the Concordia Classic. The meet offered a different experience with many NAIA school competing. Coach Scott Lorek said the meet offers a chance to relax during the middle of the season.

"It's a more low key kind of meet, I think it's easier for people to be more relaxed and compete," Lorek said. "We had a lot of really good performances, so I think it was a good weekend for us moving on to things that are a little more stressful."

The relaxed environment benefited Northwest with seven individual and one team top finishes. Along with their top place finishes the Bearcats piled up the top ten finishes on both the mens and womens sides.

Junior Kevin Shultz led the way with his performance in the heptathlon. Shultz dominated the competition finishing with 5,248 points securing first place. Out of the seven events in the heptathlon, he won four of them and finished second in two more. Shultz improved his own school record by 216 points.

The success in the heptathlon carried over into the women's side as Northwest swept the top three spots in the pentathlon. Junior Audrey Wichmann led the way in first place with 3,357 points. Sophomore Alex Koschel followed her with a second-place finish at 3,261. Freshman Maja Gantner rounded out the top three with 3,189.

Both Lorek and assistant coach Emily Peterson agreed that the

NEXT EVENTS

Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational @ Lincoln, NE
Feb. 1

Ted Nelson Invitational @ Mankato, MI
Feb. 3

meet set the team up well moving forward.

"I think we're ready to get really good marks the next two weeks," Lorek said. "That's what we're looking for, this meet was kind of a confidence boost for us it was good to be able to do some things that show progression."

The progression showed outside of the heptathlon and pentathlon into the single events. Senior Matt Prindle showed his progression in the 200-meter dash dropping .58 seconds from 21.77 to 21.18 to win the race. Prindle said finally being able to relax helped him improve.

"A big part of it for me is just being relaxed both physically and mentally, even spiritually," Prindle said. "I usually tend to get tense and nervous at every meet, that's just part of it, but being relaxed helps me keep focused."

The focus moving forward for the remainder of the season will be to maintain their training and continue to improve. With just four meets before conference Peterson said the training will shift to help the team recover.

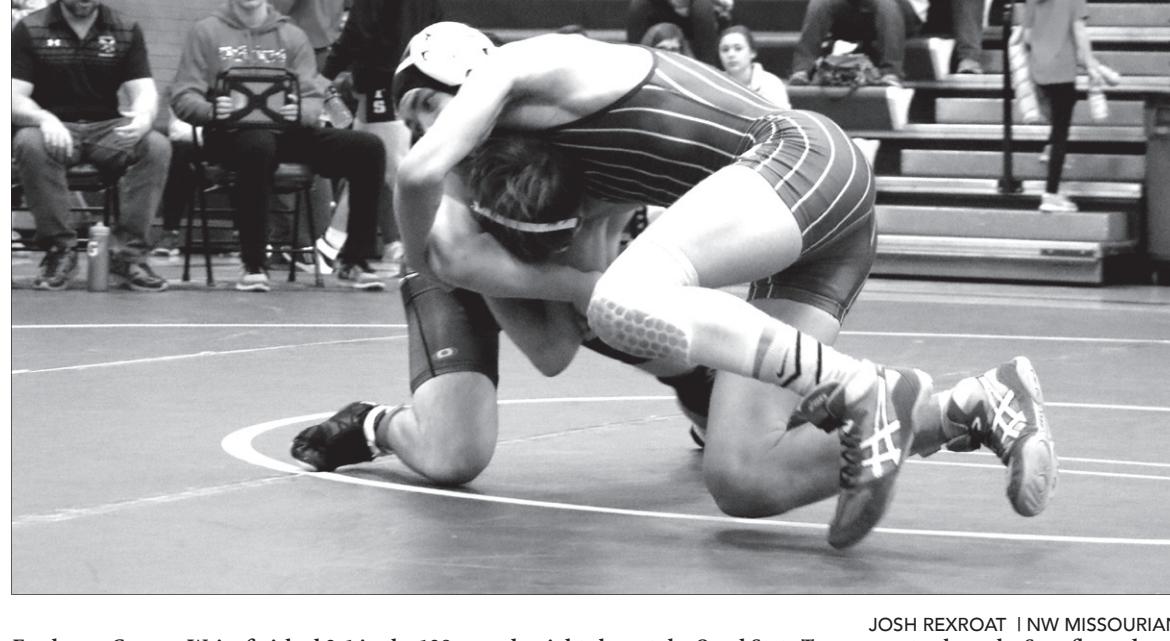
"I'm excited for our athletes to start feeling better in the next couple of weeks," Peterson said. "We still have a pretty heavy training load right now so these next couple weeks we get to focus a little bit more on recovery and running faster."

There will be plenty of time for training this upcoming week as the Bearcats have a week off in between meets to prepare.



DYLAN COLDENSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

Following a strong performance at the Concordia Invitational last weekend, Northwest Track and Field will focus on recovery before traveling to Lincoln, Nebraska and Mankato, Minnesota this weekend.



JOSH REXROD | NW MISSOURIAN

Freshman Connor Weiss finished 2-1 in the 138 pound weight class at the Quad State Tournament, where the Spoofhounds finished seventh out of 13 teams, Saturday at Maryville High School.

Wrestling remains optimistic after Quad State Invitational

ANDREW WEGLEY
Missourian Editor | @NWMSports



Maryville wrestling coach Kody Koster entered the weekend with high hopes as Maryville hosted the Quad State Tournament, featuring teams from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa.

A week after the Spoofhounds had a solid showing while hosting the Midland Empire Conference (MEC) Tournament, Koster's hopes led only to disappointment. The Spoofhounds placed fifth out of seven teams at the MEC tournament Jan. 20, and finished seventh out of 13 teams at the Quad State Tournament last Saturday, Jan. 27.

"I had really high expectations," Koster said. "It's getting towards the end of the year, and they're (the wrestlers) starting to put some stuff together that they were struggling with at the beginning of the year. It kind of puts a damper on the day, but win or lose, you still have to learn from the match."

Standout senior Jackson Sanders followed up his first-place finish from the previous week by going 3-1, good for third place in the 170 weight class. Fellow senior Jacob Search took third in the 195 weight class after going 2-1. Freshman Connor Weiss rounded

out the trio of Spoofhounds who medaled, going 2-1 at 138 pounds, also good for third place.

"You know, I'm a little disappointed finishing seventh," Koster said. "But, I also know the guys worked hard. I can't really ask for more from them than at least trying 100 percent out there. I saw a lot of good things, so I'm happy with them."

Search was pinned in his opening match but rebounded nicely with wins over Vincent Sanchez, from Bishop Miege, and Conner Hoy of Millard South to earn third place. Overall, it was a solid day for the senior Spoofhound.

"My first match, I didn't really go out there and do as well as I wanted to," Search said. "Being able to come back, win the last two matches and get third, it's good. It shows my resiliency."

Search gave some insight into his mindset and strategy heading into each match. The senior tends to try to start matches fast and heavy.

"I'm always thinking about trying to get tough on my feet, score quick, and build an early lead. That always helps," Search said. "Just go out there and score points; that's the only way you can win."

The Spoofhounds have one more dual before they will compete in the Class 2 District 4 tournament. Search was optimistic

when describing his goals for the postseason.

"My goal is to get top four at districts and get down to the state tournament," Search said. "If I get down there, I'll just let it fly and do the best I can to come back with something."

Koster echoed Search's optimism when thinking forward to the postseason and beyond, citing the proper self-belief mindset as the biggest key to a successful showing at districts.

"The biggest goal going into districts is basically to get in the kids' head that they can win," Koster said. "Yeah, some of them have a lot of losses this year, which, hey, they're a young team, they're going to have their bumps and bruises, but they need to go into districts realizing that anything can happen."

The unpredictability of the postseason means that anything is possible for the Spoofhounds.

"They just have to push themselves. They just have to keep working hard, believe in themselves to the finish and anything can happen."

BTS CONTINUED FROM A12

"We have a game in February, so it's a little early for Northern Missouri," Archer said. "He's got a heat-growth tarp on it all winter, and he's actually got some green grass coming up underneath it, so the main thing is getting it ready for that."

Even with the cold and brittle grass, work must be done as renovations and rule changes affect the landscape of the fields.

Both the softball and baseball fields have seen improvements, as they get new bells and whistles to improve their appearances before the seasons start.

"We are putting in a new backstop in this year, new dugouts, so they've really upgraded this year," Archer said. "The softball field is a little smaller and easier to take care of; they are putting a new scoreboard on it this year. We had to inclose the dugouts; they had to change the color of the foul poles from yellow to orange, so that was just some rules that came in to play."

Being in the landscaping business, there are no easy fixes, and the unpredictability is off the charts. Even after decades of work in the field, both men know that anything can happen at any point to affect the game entirely.

"Every day, there is something new, and every day, you learn something new; that's the exciting part of turf," Rinkleff said. "I always see things that could be

better, I'm kind of a perfectionist; there's days where you're like, 'that's good,' but there is always something that can be better."

Though Rinkleff and Archer are the ones that are in charge, all the decisions cannot be just up to them. To make the field as valuable as possible, the grounds crew needs to be in constant communication with the teams they are working with.

The fields are made for the players and the grounds crew understands that. They know that the field needs to be conditioned to the players' necessity, in order to build the most success during game days.

"We have really had a good relationship with the coaches, so they kinda know how they want their field to play," Rinkleff said. "They communicate with us quite a bit, and we have our own program, and we kind of know what we are doing. It's kind of a team effort between coaches and the staff."

When the long days are over, and the players are experiencing the past time like it has been enjoyed for centuries, Rinkleff cannot help but truly enjoy his creation, and what it means to the campus and the culture of Northwest as a whole.

"On a gameday, when you drive by, and you look at it, it just gets you fired up, like this is why you do it," Rinkleff said. "I told Robert that my ultimate goal here is that everyday should be gameday."

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Maryville building on recent drive

JOSH REXROAT

Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports



Maryville boys basketball took down Bishop LeBlond Jan. 30 after defeating them in the Cameron Invitational Tournament over the weekend.

The Spoofhounds completed the 3-0 sweep of the Eagles in the regular season defeating them earlier this year.

"Unfortunately, I think we played a little more comfortable," coach Matt Stoecklein said. "With No. 22 (Gian Lombardino) out, he had four-threes against us the last time. So I think a lot of us thought, one kid out that hurt us last time, it's going to be a little bit easier."

LeBlond held the Spoofhounds to only 30 points in the first half. The Eagles also held junior Eli Dowis and sophomore Tate Oglesby to two points each in the first half.

"They were hitting open shots, we were letting them get open and overreacting to drives," Stoecklein said. "I think part of the thing was we thought, it was going to be a little easier than this, but we tried to explain, 'this it's a conference game; LeBlond is going to play hard. They are going to give you their best.'"

After a slow start in the first half, the Spoofhounds came out in the second half, and changed things

NEXT GAME

Smithville @ Maryville

Feb. 2 @ 7:00 p.m.

around. The Spoofhounds scored the first points of the half, and continued to lengthen their lead.

The Spoofhounds led by 10 at the end of the third quarter 46-36. The team never looked back, winning the game 64-50.

The Spoofhounds were led by senior guard Jakob Woods who racked up 12 points on the night.

Woods was followed closely by senior guard Zachary Patton, who came off the bench to score 11; sophomore Tate Oglesby scored 11 for the Spoofhounds as well.

"It's huge, especially for people like Zach to come off the bench (and score)," Woods said. "Especially early, we were struggling to get things going, and it's very nice to have people like Zach come off the bench, hit a couple threes, and really get us going."

This is the Spoofhounds second meeting with LeBlond in the past week. The Spoofhounds defeated LeBlond on the way to a Cameron Invitational championship over the weekend.

The Spoofhounds nearly beat the Eagles Thursday, Jan. 25 after



JAMES HOWEY | NW MISSOURIAN

The Spoofhounds captured the program's first-ever Cameron Invitational Championship in a 60-47 victory over Chillicothe Saturday afternoon.

a buzzer beater from Dowis.

Woods said he believes the home atmosphere helped the Spoofhounds handle the Eagles.

"It was great tonight," Woods said. "I love playing in front of

our crowd; our student section is great."

The Hounds head to Smithville on Friday, Feb. 2, to take on the Warriors for the second time in less than 10 days. The Spoof-

hounds defeated Smithville in the first round of the Cameron Invitational Tuesday, Jan. 23.

**SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

Baseball prepares for opening weekend trip to Fort Smith, Arkansas

ANDREW WEGLEY

Missourian Reporter | @nwmsports



Northwest baseball is beginning its season this week with a long road trip to Arkansas. The Bearcats are fresh-off their most successful season in over a decade, having won 32 games in the 2017 campaign.

The season begins later this week with a three-game series against Arkansas Fort Smith followed by a trio of one-game sets versus Lyon College, Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University.

"I think anytime you open up the season you want to go out and do the little things right opening day," Northwest baseball coach Darin Loe said. "Go out and throw good strikes, play good defense and hit as well as you can."

Finding a rhythm early in the season is usually challenging enough as is, but the difficulty could be heightened for the Bearcats this season, who play their first nine games on the road. After their six-game stretch in Arkansas, Northwest will begin a three-game series with Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma, Feb. 16.

"Obviously, playing six games in eight days is going to be a grind, especially on the pitching staff, so that's also a challenge," Loe said. "Not sleeping in your own bed, getting a little worn-out, all those things come into play, especially in these first couple of weekends."

Despite all the challenges that can come when beginning the season away from home, coach Loe remained optimistic about the trip to Arkansas and the season as a whole. Loe referenced "the process" several times when

describing the efforts taken in hopes of improving on last year's solid season.

"The only thing I'm really focused on is first pitch; my thought is on throwing a strike on the first pitch of the game, that's my goal and we'll progress from there," Loe said. "The competition we're going to face (in Arkansas) is going to be very solid. We just have to go down and focus on the process, not how many hits we get or things like that, just the process."

Senior pitcher Joseph Hietpas echoed Loe's short-term goals for the season, relaying that his focus is on game one. The 6-foot-2-inch right-hander figures to be a centerpiece in the Bearcats rotation this season.

"Our first goal is just to win game one," Hietpas said. "I think for us, especially as a more-Northern school going down south play some teams in warmer weather, it's important that we make our first goal to just play a good game one. For the most part, we're just focused on playing good baseball on our road trip."

Hietpas finished last season with a 5-4 record and a 3.75 ERA in 16 appearances for Northwest, 15 of which were starts. The senior is looking forward to his last trip around the block with the Bearcats.

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FILE PHOTO | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest looks to capitalize off its best finish since 2005 ahead of its 2018 quest. MIAA coaches ranked Northwest as the No. 9 team in the conference.

NW MEN'S BASKETBALL

MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
NORTHWEST.....	17-2	9-2
Washburn.....	15-5	9-2
Central Missouri.....	16-4	8-3
Missouri Southern.....	13-8	8-4
Central Oklahoma.....	14-6	7-4
Lindenwood.....	14-7	6-6
Pittsburg State.....	13-8	6-6
Fort Hays State.....	12-8	5-6
Southwest Baptist.....	11-9	5-6
Nebraska Kearney.....	9-11	5-6
Lincoln.....	11-10	5-7
Emporia State.....	8-12	3-8
Northeastern State.....	6-14	2-9
Missouri Western.....	3-15	1-10

NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
Central Missouri.....	17-1	11-0
Pittsburg State.....	16-5	9-3
Central Oklahoma.....	17-3	8-3
Nebraska Kearney.....	16-3	8-3
Emporia State.....	13-5	8-3
Fort Hays State.....	16-4	7-4
Missouri Southern.....	10-10	7-5
Washburn.....	14-6	6-5
Northeastern State.....	9-9	5-6
Southwest Baptist.....	12-8	4-7
Missouri Western.....	10-10	3-8
Lindenwood.....	9-11	2-10
NORTHWEST.....	2-17	1-10
Lincoln.....	3-17	0-12

NW BASEBALL

MIAA PRESEASON

	Overall	MIAA
Emporia State.....	0-0	0-0
Central Missouri.....	0-0	0-0
Central Oklahoma.....	0-0	0-0
Lindenwood.....	0-0	0-0
Missouri Western.....	0-0	0-0
Pittsburg State.....	0-0	0-0
Missouri Southern.....	0-0	0-0
Southwest Baptist.....	0-0	0-0
NORTHWEST.....	0-0	0-0
Washburn.....	0-0	0-0
Northeastern State.....	0-0	0-0
Lincoln.....	0-0	0-0
Nebraska Kearney.....	0-0	0-0
Fort Hays State.....	0-0	0-0

NW SOFTBALL

MIAA PRESEASON

	Overall	MIAA
Central Oklahoma.....	0-0	0-0
Missouri Western.....	0-0	0-0
NORTHWEST.....	0-0	0-0
Central Missouri.....	0-0	0-0
Southwest Baptist.....	0-0	0-0
Emporia State.....	0-0	0-0
Missouri Southern.....	0-0	0-0
Pittsburg State.....	0-0	0-0
Northeastern State.....	0-0	0-0
Washburn.....	0-0	0-0
Lindenwood.....	0-0	0-0
Fort Hays State.....	0-0	0-0
Nebraska Kearney.....	0-0	0-0
Lincoln.....	0-0	0-0

Stoecklein Shine

One family embedded in boys, girls basketball programs

JAMES HOWEY
Chief Reporter | @How_Eyeseeit



The Stoecklein household gets to experience one of unique and rare opportunities for a family involved in athletics. Many basketball nights in Maryville, Missouri, is almost a family night for the Stoecklein's, with three of the members participating in the games.

Matt Stoecklein is the coach of the boys basketball team, and his son Creid is a junior that play valuable varsity minutes season for the Spoofhounds this season. Matt's daughter, Morgan, is a freshman on the girls, and has seen time on varsity this season.

The coach said being able to be around Creid more has deepened their relationship as father and son.

"Every practice, and every game, I get to see him," Matt Stoecklein said. "Now that he is on varsity, we have developed an even more special relationship."

Matt Stoecklein said he also enjoys the time he can regulate to just being a dad in the stands when his daughter Morgan is playing.

"It's nice to have her be at the high school, and go over to watch her practice," Matt Stoecklein said. "I don't get to go to all her games, but when I do, I can just sit in the stands, and be a dad for a change, which is nice to have."

Creid Stoecklein has been able to grind out a spot on a team filled with many standout players. Matt Stoecklein said he is proud to see how his son has come into his own on the team.

"He never worries about his points, and for him, it's always about his assists," Matt Stoecklein said. "He wants to break the assist record. That's nice to see he's so unselfish in that regard."

Creid Stoecklein said that everything he puts on the floor dur-



JAMES HOWEY | NW MISSOURIAN

This is the first season Coach Matt Stoecklein has coached his son Creid on the Maryville Spoofhounds boys varsity basketball team. This relates back to what his dad taught him.

"As a player, I've learned everything I know about basketball from him," Creid Stoecklein said. "He taught me everything from how to dribble a basketball, how to shoot or anything we do on the team now."

Most boys are able to experience what it's like to learn the game they love from their father, but Creid Stoecklein said he knows this experience is something a little more special.

"Everybody's dad coached them at one point," Creid Stoecklein said. "But not many people get to say that they have been your high school varsity coach for multiple years, and it's just a special experience to have."

Morgan Stoecklein said that basketball is a huge part of their family life at home, and her father helped develop her basketball skills at a young age despite Volleyball and Track being her main sports.

"Sometimes, I'll get home, and my dad will be watching film, so we'll watch it with him," Morgan

Stoecklein said. "He helped me a lot when I was younger with getting to the gym and shooting together."

Basketball also follows the family outside of the high school. Watching the sport is a tradition at the Stoecklein household with most of the family.

"We watch it together. We enjoy college basketball, and we watch Kansas University together," Matt Stoecklein said. "It's nice that they have an understanding of the game, so we can sit and talk about it."

Matt's wife Heather also expressed an immense amount of joy in the experience of watching her family members this season.

"I love watching my kids play, and my husband coach basketball," Heather Stoecklein said. "It always seems like we have something to do, and I like being a part of it."

"Up on top, get a good seed in state and leave state with some hardware where I can sign my name right under Matt's," Sanders said.



JOSH REXROAT | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior Jackson Sanders captured another career milestone last week as he grabbed his 100th career victory at Benton.

Sanders shifts from student to mentor

JOSEPH ANDREWS
Assistant Sports Editor | @Joe_Andrews15

With over 100 wins on his resume, Maryville wrestler Jackson Sanders checked another objective off his list.

Sanders entered his senior season aiming to avenge his shortcomings as a junior in the Class 2 185 Pound state tournament.

So far, Sanders has done just that, claiming a Midland Empire Conference Championship in the 170 pound weight class. His career win total sits at 110.

"It really does mean a lot," Sanders said. "One of the goals this year was to get that 100th win, and to cross it off for a career goal, I'd say that is pretty good."

Nearly 10 years ago, Sanders would not have even thought any of his accomplishments were possible.

Sanders began his childhood competing on the basketball court.

He had a change of thinking in second grade.

"Around the second or third grade, my dad was like, 'hey, I want you to try out wrestling' because he used to be a wrestler," Sanders said.

"I kind of asked my mom and I was like, 'hey, can I do wrestling' and she's like, 'for sure.'

Sanders' mother did some research and eventually discovered details for the Maryville Missouri Youth Wrestling club.

Upon registering for the league, Sanders attended his first practice.

"It turns out one of my buddies, Matt Twaddle, who was in third grade when I was in second, he was there," Sanders said. "And a lot of my friends were there. I just kind of stuck with it."

Sanders considers Twaddle to be one of his key mentors throughout his wrestling career. Over time, they became close friends on and off the mat.

Through the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons, the duo were partners in practice.

"I wanted to beat the heck out of him in the wrestling room everyday," Twaddle said. "I think the feeling was mutual."

Both ended up advancing to the MSHSAA Class 2 State Championship tournament in 2016-17.

While Sanders didn't advance to the championship match, Twaddle finished out on top in the 170 weight class.

"He pushed me to the point where we almost started fights because we got so mad at each other," Sanders said. "In wrestling, that's a good friendship to have."

Sanders knew he had big shoes to fill upon Twaddle's graduation. Based on his accomplishments so far, things are looking that way.

Coach Kody Koster has noticed a chip on Sanders' shoulder whether he ends a match with a

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Behind the scenes: Grass Guys lay the lawn

TRENT SPINNER

Chief Reporter | @trentspinner



As fresh scenery replaces snowy days, the workload for the Northwest grounds crew amplifies in time for baseball and softball season.

Baseball debuts in its home opener Feb. 23, while softball opens at home March 23. It is all made possible by the personnel who dabble in the expertise of grass.

The man behind the diamond is Patrick Rinkleff, a connoisseur of all things involving landscape maintenance. Rinkleff has been the go-to guy for anything that exists within the realm of lawn care for the baseball and softball fields over the past two years. Rinkleff first appeared on the scene of the Northwest campus back in 2016, but his journey started way before then.

Rinkleff started his ascent through the ranks of field management in high school. He began his climb at Elmhurst Country Club, a local golf course in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and fell in love with the practice.

He knew that he wanted to take his abilities and passion for athletic landscape maintenance to the next level. Leading him down a path to Indian Hills Community College where a degree in turf management was offered.

"The management taught me the broader range of permaculture," Rinkleff said. "After the management program, I was in golf for about 10 years. After that, I was looking for a new challenge. I always wanted to do the athletic side, so I applied at Northwest."

Though Rinkleff is the main official on the dirt diamonds, he is not the only one hard at work every day, making the fields his own design. Robert Archer, a veteran to the business, plays his part just as much as Rinkleff.

Archer's focus is mainly on the work of the football field, but that does not mean he does not put his own work in on the fields. Along with them is a crew always ready to turn the field from disaster to masterpiece.

Winter can be the toughest time for maintenance on a baseball and softball field, but Rinkleff and Archer know the proper techniques to make sure the diamonds are in tiptop shape for the seasons.

SEE BTS | A9

NABC Ranking

No. 6



Overall Record

17-2

Reigning 2017 Division II Coach of the Year Ben McCollum is currently leading the Bearcats in a 17-2 regular season, including their most recent victory, a 94-60 win over Missouri Western Saturday at Bearcat Arena.

DYLAN COLDENSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

Men's culture remains strong

TUCKER FRANKLIN

Chief Reporter | @THEREAL_tuckerf



Before the era of coach Ben McCollum, one legendary coach laid the foundation which built the Northwest men's basketball program.

Coach Steve Tappmeyer stood on the Northwest sidelines for 19 years with his trademark green towel around his shoulder.

Recent inductee into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, Tappmeyer won three MIAA titles, three MIAA postseason titles and appeared in the playoffs nine times in his tenure. Along with those achievements, Tappmeyer holds the Northwest record for coaching wins and total games coached as a Bearcat. During the Tappmeyer regime, Northwest found its way to the Elite Eight for the first time in program history.

A student of the program, McCollum hasn't missed a step since replacing Tappmeyer in 2009. In his ninth year as coach, McCollum has won five MIAA titles, along with two MIAA postseason titles, and brought Bearcat basketball to pinnacle of Division II with the program's first national championship. McCollum explained the trail to the top was blazed by Tappmeyer.

"It says a lot about Coach Tapp," McCollum said. "He wanted somebody from this program to take over the program he essentially built, and it was important to him that I got the job and continued with the culture that he had already established. I think that says a lot about how good of a leader he is."

Tappmeyer coached the Bearcats to a 372-185 total record while he was at the helm, recording 17 winning seasons. McCollum said the culture can start to fade sooner than you will see on court.

"I think you lose your culture a lot earlier than you start to lose games," McCollum said. "It starts to slip, and you don't realize it because you keep winning games. We've always tried to focus on that, and it's still difficult because it's daily. There's no real answers; it's just continuing to get better. There's no secret recipe. It's not exciting, and it's not sexy, for lack of a better term."

A part of the legendary culture at Northwest is the great atmosphere at Bearcat Arena. As of late, the Bearcats have won 46 straight games and haven't lost in the friendly confines since 2015. Junior Dray Starzl explained that Bearcat Nation brings the intensity to the games at home.

"Whenever we play at home, it's great to have the fans behind

us," Starzl said. "We do try and bring out energy every game, but it does help to have a full house and helps us get going right at the start for warm-ups. We like to see people there, and we like to play well in front of them."

Starzl was a redshirt freshman the last time Northwest dropped a game to a visitor in Maryville, and hasn't seen a loss in Bearcat Arena since he's stepped on the floor. All that being said, Starzl said the dominance on the home court starts in practice.

"Every day, we try and get to practice 10 minutes early and get the energy up," Starzl said. "If one of the younger guys isn't here 10 minutes early, we harp on them, tell them to make sure they do better and keep that culture when the freshman next year come in."

With the players taking accountability in the program, McCollum explained he can take a back seat, and let the other people he's surrounded himself with shine.

"I think the key to being a good coach is understanding you're not that important," McCollum said. "Once you realize you aren't that important, you become that important. You become a considerably better leader because you understand all these other people have these strengths, but you need to highlight their strengths."

NEXT GAMES

Lincoln @ Northwest

Feb. 1 @ 7:30 p.m.

Lindenwood @ Northwest

Feb. 3 @ 3:30 p.m.

Northwest continued its winning ways this past weekend as they topped in-state rival Missouri Western for the eleventh straight time.

After Saturday's game, McCollum said hunger is hard to find for a team that has already eaten, but he said this week's encouragement is simple.

"Just continuing to get better," McCollum said. "I keep it pretty simple, the process part of it. Hopefully, they see the heightened awareness they had against Hays, and I felt like we did against Western. We need to continue that. Monday, I made a few of them have heightened awareness in practice. Had to use a little fear as motivation."

The No. 6 team in Division II now directs its attention to its two games this week in Lincoln University (11-10, 5-7 MIAA) and Lindenwood (14-7, 6-6 MIAA), but what was on McCollum's mind during the weekly press conference was one thing: culture.

Bearcats break through, look to build off of MIAA win

WYATT BELL

Missourian Reporter | @wyattbell5

After a long wait, with multiple close games along the way, Northwest women's basketball finally broke through, earning its first MIAA win of the season this past Saturday against Missouri Western.

Led by senior forward Tanya Meyer, who collected 15 points, the Bearcats (2-17, 1-10 MIAA) defeated the Griffons (10-10, 3-8 MIAA) 56-53. Head coach Buck Scheel was pleased with the energy his team showed, not only in the game, but after, heading into another MIAA matchup with Lincoln University.

"There's some added energy; the girls really deserved that win on Saturday with several close games, and just building up a lot to that point," Scheel said. "It was good for them to feel that win on Saturday, and our goal as a staff to carry that into Thursday's game as well."

As defense seems to bring the Bearcats struggles, this game, the defense was the savior. Northwest allowed a season low 53 points to the Griffons in the contest.

With eight games left to play against some evenly matched teams, the Bearcats still have a shot to fight for the seventh or eighth seed in the MIAA tournament with a strong finish to the



NEXT GAMES

Lincoln @ Northwest

Feb. 1 @ 5:30 p.m.

Lindenwood @ Northwest

Feb. 3 @ 1:30 p.m.

Scheel also added that his team needs to improve defensively in the paint. Offensively, Scheel saw things in the game Saturday that he had seen in practice, but had never quite carried over into game play.

"I feel, offensively, we showed and did some really good things on Saturday that we had been doing in practice, but weren't carrying over into games with just how much better we shared the ball," Scheel said. "If we can just get a little bit tougher defensively, and just make sure we don't get careless with the ball, will probably be the two biggest areas that will help us."

With momentum riding high after a big win, Northwest will look to carry that into the home stretch of games to end the regular season. The Bearcats will look to capture its second win in a row and second MIAA win of the season. The last time Northwest won two straight MIAA contests was Feb. 4 and Feb. 6 of 2016.

"It's really good to get over that hump, especially beating a rival team," Meyer said. "Having the crowd there was amazing."

Freshman Jaelyn Haggard put up 14 points in Northwest's second win of the year Saturday afternoon at Northwest's whiteout game against Missouri Western.

season. Scheel believes his group can still make a push as the end of the regular season draws near.

"Obviously, every game is a big game, no matter who you're playing, but even more so we get to have two more home games

this week with both teams that are right around where we are," Scheel said. "If we can get through this weekend, and get out with a couple of wins, then I think that is hopefully going to pick up some momentum, even more than what

we currently have."

Consistency is the key to making the postseason, according to Scheel. The Bearcats have shown flashes of consistent, good basketball this season, but haven't put it together on a regular basis.